

Message Text

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ACTION DOE-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-12
NRC-05 SOE-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CEQ-01 SP-02
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R 161100Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0242
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4167

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS SENT ACTION NEW DELHI 15 MARCH 1978
AND IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFORMATION.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0661

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENGR, IN
SUBJECT: TARAPUR STORAGE AND REPROCESSING

REF: NEW DELHI 3871

1. V. SHANKAR ESTIMATE OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS FOR
RERACKING TARAPUR POOLS STRIKES ME AS GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.
I RECALL BIL KIEFER TELLING ME AND J.C. SHAH THAT HIS
FIRM, COMMONWEALTH EDISON OF CHICAGO, HAD DONE AN ALMOST IDENTI-
CAL RERACKING JOB FOR UNDER A MILLION DOLLARS IN 1975
OR EARLY 1976. KIEFER SAID THAT HIGH DENSITY RACKS
COULD BE PURCHASED EX-FACTORY IN THE STATES FOR APPROXIMATELY
EITHER \$600,000, OR \$900,000. DEPENDING ON THEIR QUALITY, E.G.
STAINLESS STEEL, BORON TUBED OR SHEETED. INSTALLATION, OF
COURSE, WOULD BE ADDITIONAL BUT WOULD NOT BE A LARGE
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PERCENTAGE OF MATERIEL PURCHASE COST. APPENDIX VI
OF G.E. FEASIBILITY REPORT OF DECEMBER 8, 1977 INDICATES
THAT BROOKS AND PERKINS, INC. OF SOUTHFIELD,
MICHIGAN OFFERED IN OCTOBER 1977 TO PROVIDE 1100
MODULES (WHICH I BELIEVE APPROXIMATELY DOUBLES
STORAGE CAPACITY OF PARAPUR) AT A COST OF
\$931,000 CIF BOMBAY.

2. J.C. SHAH ADMITTED TO BEING THE SOURCE OF THE THREE MILLION DOLLAR ESTIMATE CITED BY SHANKAR AND WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE FIGURES CITED ABOVE, SIMPLY SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK OVER HIS OWN ESTIMATES. I EXPECT TO HEAR FURTHER FROM HIM ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. I KNOW THAT INDIANS CURRENTLY HOPE TO BE ABLE TO BUILD TEMPORARY RACKS THEMSELVES FROM STAINLESS STEEL WHICH WILL BE MUCH CHEAPER THAN ANY OF ESTIMATES MENTIONED ABOVE, EVEN THOUGH THIS APPROACH MAY EXPAND STORAGE BY LESS THAN ABOVE TECHNIQUES.

4. DEPARTMENT, OF COURSE, HAS AVAILABLE EXPERTISE FOR CHECKING THESE ESTIMATES MUCH MORE CLOSELY THAN A NON-EXPERT LIKE MYSELF.

5. COMMENT. WHEN OPTION OF INCREASING STORAGE CAPACITY AT TARAPUR FIRST DISCUSSED IN 1976, SETHNA THOUGHT THAT ONLY WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS END WOULD BE BUILDING ADDITIONAL POOL OR POOLS FOR WHICH COST ESTIMATES RAN INTO THE \$3 TO \$5 MILLION RANGE AND DISTRESSED HIM CONSIDERABLY. HE POINTED OUT THAT FIGURES OF THAT SIZE WOULD RAISE ENORMOUS DOUBTS IN THE PARLIAMENT BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUING FUEL SUPPLY. HE BECAME ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INCREASING SPENT FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY ONLY WHEN INITIAL DISCUSSION OF RERACKING INDICATED IT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR LESS THAN \$500,000., A FIGURE WHICH HE FELT CONFIDENT OF DEFENDING IN PARLIAMENT EVEN WHILE SMEL SUPPLY PROBLEM REMAINED UNRESOLVED. HE INTENDED SIMPLY TO ARGUE THAT AN EXPENDITURE OF LESS THAN ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS WAS ECONOMICALLY SENSIBLE EVEN IF INDIA GOT NO MORE FUEL AFTER XSNM-1060 AND XSNM-1222 COSTS RUNNING INTO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, OF COURSE, COULD NOT BE DEFENDED ON THIS BASIS AND WOULD, AS SHANKAR SUGGESTED, RAISE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. COURTNY
UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STORAGE, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE04167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780118-0766
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780360/aaaabyud.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f174bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DOE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 3871
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3309552
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TARAPUR STORAGE AND REPROCESSING
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
To: STATE CALCUTTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f174bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014